

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

Volume XX-09

Number 10

March 23, 2009



## TacSat 3 Launch Date Set, Let the Countdown Begin

Lift off for Tactical Satellite-3 (TacSat 3) has been scheduled for May 5 from NASA Wallops Flight Facility's, Wallops Island.

The program recently encountered challenges with some of the spacecraft's components, but the required repairs have been made and the system has been given the green light for its year-long experimental mission.

"Our program team never gave up, and establishment of the launch date serves as a testimony to their dedication, determination and duty to making TacSat-3's mission a success," said Dr. Thomas Cooley, TacSat-3 program manager.

"Obviously, the project has much to do in these next few weeks leading up to lift off, but we now have a firm end date to get on orbit and begin the fun experiment phase," said Cooley.

Led by the Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) Space Vehicles Directorate at Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico, the less than 880-pound satellite, originated in 2004 to address military needs for responsible, flexible, and affordable spacecraft operating in the cosmos.

TacSat 3 consists of three innovative experiments: the Advanced Responsive Tactically Effective Military Imaging Spectrometer hyperspectral imager built by Raytheon, the Office of Naval Research's Satellite Communications Package, and AFRL's Space Avionics Experiment.

The trio of trials will provide real-time imagery (within 10 minutes of collection), sea-based information transmitted from ocean buoys, as well as plug-and-play avionics to advance the technology of rapid spacecraft integration and help enable the responsive space vision.



Program participants include the AFRL's Sensors Directorate, the Department of Defense's Operationally Responsive Space Office, the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Space Development and Test Wing, Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and the Office of Naval Research.



James Mason-Foley photo.

*TacSat 2 was successfully launched from Wallops Island on Dec. 16, 2006.*

## Round 2 is on -- Vote for Balloons!

It's amazing what a little teamwork will do! We won Round 1 by a fantastic margin – Super Pressure Balloon (SPB) 16,791 to Mars Exploration Rover (MER) 15,559

The voting has started for Round 2! Now the SPB is up against Mars Odyssey with voting March 23 and 24, today and tomorrow.

NASA's Mission Madness is going on now through April 8. NASA is allowing people to pick their favorite mission in true March Madness style. One of the top missions selected is the Super Pressure Balloon. SPB upper right - then blue arrow. Vote for the Wallop mission today at: <http://mission-madness.nasa.gov/mm/bracket.html>

## Wallops shorts.....

### Launch

A NASA Black Brant XII sounding rocket was launched from Poker Flat Research Range, Alaska, on March 20. This was the eighth and final mission in the 2009 Alaska campaign that began in early January.

The Changing Aurora – in Situ and Camera Analyses of Dynamic Electron precipitation Structures (CASCADES 2) mission was to investigate motions and structure of electron precipitation in a pre-midnight pole-ward edge discrete aurora. The experimenter, Dr. Kristina Lynch from Dartmouth College, was pleased with an initial review of data from mission.

Libby West, NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office and Jack Vieira, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, were the campaign managers. Jay Scott, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC), was the mission manager.

### Great Job

Congratulations on a super job to the Wallops team that has spent the past three months in Alaska working in extreme weather conditions to meet schedules and conducted a very successful campaign with eight successful launches.

NASA civil service and contract employees are invited to bring their children, up to age 11, to an:

### *Easter Egg Hunt at the Pavilion*

April 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hot dogs, chips, sodas will be available at no charge.

The Easter Bunny asks that your children bring a basket to collect the eggs.

Email the Lead Bunny Helper, [Claudia.S.Underwood@nasa.gov](mailto:Claudia.S.Underwood@nasa.gov) with the number of children, full names, ages and full names of adults that will accompany them. This will give the Easter Bunny and Security an idea of how many egg hunters to expect.

All security rules will be in place, so plan ahead and arrive early. Badged NASA employees escorting guests will have to sign guests in at the front desk.

The absolute deadline to sign up with the Lead Bunny Helper is March 27.



Theme Park Tickets  
Available at the Exchange,  
Bldg. E-2

Discount tickets for Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va., and Kings Dominion near Richmond, Va., are now on sale.

Busch Gardens opens March 28  
Kings Dominion opens April 4

Call Karen Shannon at x2020 or Karen Thornes at x2040 for more information and pricing.

### EAP Lunch & Learn

March 30

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bldg. E-2 Williamsburg Room

Topic: Get ready for spring: Nip anxiety and depression in the bud.



Presented by Peggy Swan and Sharon Parker, Accomac Family Counseling.

### Old Dominion University Summer/Fall 2009 Schedule

Check out all the classes offered through Old Dominion University, especially in these areas: civil, electrical, mechanical and environmental engineering; communication; computer science; engineering management; information technology; management; marketing and psychology.

Classes are offered at Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa, VA, and at the Navy MWR Building (Cropper Center) just outside the NASA Main Base.

Visit ODU's Distance Learning website at: <http://dl.odu.edu/>

Class information is available at: [https://www.leonline.odu.edu/plsql/web/twbkwbis.P\\_GenMenu?name=homepage](https://www.leonline.odu.edu/plsql/web/twbkwbis.P_GenMenu?name=homepage)

For more information, contact Nancy Collins, Distance Learning Site Director at [ncCollin@odu.edu](mailto:ncCollin@odu.edu).

Employees should also talk with their supervisor and/or training office to see if a particular class qualifies for tuition payment by the government or your company.

### Microsoft Office 2007

April 23 - 24

8 a.m. - Noon or 1 - 5 p.m.

Bldg. E-104, Rm 308

There will be significant changes in the migration to MS Office 2007. Outlook, Word, Excel & PowerPoint are going to look very different.

You may register for either the morning or the afternoon session in SATERN. In SATERN, search for "WFF - Microsoft Office 2007 - New Features".

This training is for PC users only (not MAC). This class will review new features only. This class is not for employees who are unfamiliar with Microsoft Office products.

For more information contact: Jeanette Staton at x 66-4121.

### Annual Non-Critical Crane Operator Refresher Training

April 2, 2009

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bldg. E-109, Rm 107

For more information, contact Cheryl Outten at x1714 or email: [cheryl.d.outten@nasa.gov](mailto:cheryl.d.outten@nasa.gov)

### Did you know...

While taking Wallops Aerobics Club classes, you should check your heart rate.

Given your age,

A = \_\_\_\_\_ years

and your resting heart rate\*

H = \_\_\_\_\_ beats per minute

For aerobic activities your target heart rate range is:

Lower Limit =  $(220 - A - H) \times 0.6 + H =$  \_\_\_\_\_ beats per minute

Upper Limit =  $(220 - A - H) \times 0.8 + H =$  \_\_\_\_\_ beats per minute

\*Resting heart rate is measured by counting heartbeats for one minute while still lying down when you first wake up.

*Inside Wallops* is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Public Affairs Office, x1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html>

Editor  
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers  
Rebecca Powell